ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A modular backrest system for a wheelchair is removably attached to backrest posts of the wheelchair. The backrest system includes a back support that provides a surface against which the back of a wheelchair user rests, and a support chassis mounted to the back support for supporting the back support at a desired incline with respect to the posts, and at a desired seat depth with respect to the seat. An attachment assembly is further included that is operably connected to the support chassis at two locations and to the posts to allow the support chassis and back support to be readily removed from or attached to the chair. The particular back support employed in conjunction with the support chassis is based upon the support needs of the wheelchair user. One embodiment of the back support includes a backing plate, and a cushion or insert attached to a forwardly presented face of the backing plate against which the back of the individual rests when sitting on the seat. Another embodiment of the back support includes a plurality of pads adjustably attached to support tubes extending upwardly from the support chassis. Each pad is attached to at least one of the support tubes at a desired location by an elbow joint that permits forward and rearward movement and side-to-side movement of the pad. Each pad is attached to the elbow joint by a ball and socket joint that permits rotational movement of the pad with respect to the second member.